

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15174 291630Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3757
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 15174

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALISTS REMAIN IN EMBASSY
REF: MOSCOW 15024

SUMMARY: PENTECOSTALISTS REMAIN ADAMANT IN DETERMINATION
TO REMAIN IN EMBASSY UNTIL THE THREE CONDITIONS CITED
PARA THREE, REFTEL ARE MET. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR MET WITH PENTECOSTALISTS SEVERAL
TIMES JUNE 29 TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE EMBASSY,
NOTING THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLIGHT BUT ARE
POWERLESS TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION FOR THEM. THEY
CLEARLY INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR STAY INDEFINITELY.

2. AT ONE POINT DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON, THE
PENTECOSTALISTS APPEARED TO WAVER REGARDING THEIR
THIRD POINT AND TO BE WILLING TO LEAVE PROVIDED
16-YEAR OLD BOY (YOAN VASHCHENKO) IS RETURNED TO THEM
AND THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO
REPRISALS.

3. AFTER EMBASSY DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO
MAKE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH YOAN IN HIS HOME VILLAGE
NEAR CHERNOGORSK, POL COUNSELOR TELEPHONED MFA USA
RIVISION COUNSELOR ISAKOV AND INFORMED LATTER OF
SITUATION REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR
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YOAN TO TELEPHONE PARENTS IN EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION.
ISAKOV REACTED NEGATIVELY, NOTING THAT PENTECOSTALISTS
WERE "EMBASSY'S PROBLEM" AND HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS
MFA'S BUSINESS TO CHASE AROUND TRYING TO LOCATE
VASHCHENKO BOY. HDWEVER, ISAKOV DID NOT UTTER OUTRIGHT
REFUSAL TO ASSIST AND THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY
THAT HE WILL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE EMBASSY'S REQUEST.

3. MEANWHILE, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT PENTECOSTALISTS
WOULD LEAVE EMBASSY EVEN IF THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES
THAT YOAN IS AT LIBERTY. THEY SEEM COMMITTED TO THE
THREE DEMANDS CITED IN REFTEL DESPITE THEIR
MOMENTARY AGREEMENT TO DROP THIRD POINT (RE DEMAND FOR
EXIT VISAS).

4. SEVERAL WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE INTERVIEWED
PENTECOSTALISTS IN CONSULAR LOBBY. TOON

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